

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated March 21, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Karjanlahti (US 2003/0187926 A1). The Karjanlahti document is based on a PCT application filed December 13, 2001.

Applicants respectfully submit that they invented the subject matter of their invention no later than March 2000. This statement is supported by a Declaration by one of the inventors, Mr. Olivier Clarisse, and a Supplementary Declaration by his supervisor, Ms. Lizette Velazquez. According to these declarations, reduction to practice took place in phases, with the first phase demonstrated on May 17, 2000, a second phase completed in May 2000 (Documents A1-2, B1-2, of the attachments to the Clarisse declaration) and a final phase demonstrated in November 2000 (Document C of the attachment to the Clarisse declaration).

The above statement is supported by a Supplementary Declaration by Ms. Lizette Velazquez, Mr. Clarisse's supervisor at the time of the invention and reduction to practice and the manager responsible for the Virtual Direct Connect Project, the project which produced the claimed invention. Ms. Velazquez specifically states that she witnessed the demonstrations of May 17, 2000, and the prototype implementation of November 2000.

Both Mr. Clarisse's Declaration and that of Ms. Velazquez are supported by attached copies of contemporary documents, retrieved from archives, and personal logs; the significance of each document is described in the Declarations.

(Note that Mr. Clarisse in his notes to describe the attachments to his Declaration frequently uses the European style dating, e.g., 2005/6/21 is June 21, 2005.)

Accordingly, Applicants' attorney respectfully submits that their invention predates the filing date of the Karjanlahti reference, and that this reference therefore does not anticipate their claimed invention.

Applicants therefore request that the Examiner reconsider the grounds for the rejection, allow the application including all eight claims, and pass the application to issue.

If the Examiner feels that a voice or fax communication would help to advance

the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call or fax Applicants' attorney at 630 469-3575.

Respectfully submitted

O. Clarisse et al.



by Werner Ulrich
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Date: June 24, 2005

Attached:

Declaration by Mr. Olivier Clarisse (with attachments)

Supplementary Declaration by Ms. Lizette Velazquez (with attachments)